

retary Taft replied: "Yes, sir, it does, and it leaves it to the commission to make a perpetual guarantee if it would. In many of the guarantees of England this was the form taken."

From these two quotations it will be seen that Mr. Taft was willing, when he was governor of the Philippines, to grant a perpetual franchise to a railroad, and was willing, after he became secretary of war, to authorize the commission to make a perpetual guarantee of income to a railroad.

Remember that the Filipinos are often described as our wards, and that we are benevolently described as their guardian. Remember, too, that our occupation of the islands is only temporary, for our government has never announced its purpose to hold the islands or to administer the government for any particular time, and we are assured by prominent republicans that we can not yet tell what ought to be done with the islands. Now a guardian is under restrictions which are not applied to one who acts for himself. If Mr. Taft is willing to give a perpetual franchise when he is a guardian of the Filipinos, how long a franchise would he be willing to give if he were acting for the American people? If he would be willing to bind the Filipinos forever to a fixed profit on a railway enterprise, how would he be willing to bind the American people in corporate matters?

How long is eternity? Does Mr. Taft realize what it means to grant a perpetual franchise? If, for instance, Columbus had been given a perpetual franchise in the United States by Ferdinand and Isabella, when he discovered America, that franchise would be legally running yet. And yet neither Columbus nor the king could have looked into the future or have estimated the changed conditions that the last four centuries have brought. But eternity is longer than four hundred years. If Caesar had given to a commission the power to grant a perpetual franchise in one of Rome's colonies, that franchise would be legally running yet. And yet eternity is longer than twenty centuries. If the ruler of Babylon had granted a perpetual franchise to one of his favorites, that franchise would legally be running still, although the glories of Babylon have been forgotten for thousands of years. But eternity would still be young. If Adam had had the power that Mr. Taft desired to vest in a Philippine commission, and had given to Cain a perpetual franchise, and guaranteed an annual income, the descendants of Cain, so far as the law could secure it, would still be drawing an income to be paid by taxation, levied upon the rest of the people.

Eternity is a long time, and the man who will attempt to bind any people by a perpetual corporate charter must be strangely indifferent to the rights of posterity, or strangely ignorant of the subject matter with which he deals. And one who would attempt to fasten a perpetual debt upon a helpless race, must excuse himself, either by saying that he would do the same thing, if possible, to the people of the United States, or admit that he would not accord to the Filipinos the same measure of justice that he would secure to Americans.

Mr. Taft has placed himself on record in favor of giving vast power to corporations, and in favor of burdening a people forever with the taxation necessary to make an investment profitable.

The trouble is that Mr. Taft looks at public questions from the standpoint of the men who own and operate the corporations which need regulation, whereas reforms must come from those who look at the question from the standpoint of the masses of the people.

REPUBLICAN "PROSPERITY"

The following is taken from the New York Sun, republican, issue of June 22:

A committee of residents of the University Settlement, through Dr. Charles S. Bernheimer, assistant head worker, issued yesterday a report of a special investigation giving details as to destitution in the lower East Side and discussing the situation from the point of view of the small dealers. These include the grocermen, the bakers, the butchers and other merchants. The report shows that the burden of supporting the unemployed and their families rests upon that class in the community which can least afford to bear it and pays a warm tribute to the small dealers, who, it says, have set a heroic example of self-denial and genuine charity in extending the credits, with little hope that the bills will be paid in time to save the dealers themselves from want.

"The unemployed," the report says, "have

practically exhausted their savings, as it has been now nearly nine months since the general period of unemployment for most of them set in * * * They are now rapidly exhausting their credit, which is a last resource."

There is a population of more than 300,000 people in the district known as the lower East Side and the investigators had to limit themselves to a small area. It was finally decided that they should confine their efforts to school district No. 2, lying east of Catharine street and the Bowery and bounded also by Grand, Orchard, Canal and Rutgers streets and the East river. This district contains about forty blocks, thickly populated by Jewish, Irish and Italian races, the Jews predominating. The report goes on:

Fifteen druggists interviewed in the Second school district say that within the last year their business has fallen from one-half to one-third of its normal volume, which they attribute to the hard times, people not having the money to purchase the medicines. They all state that there is less sickness among the children this summer than there has been in the past, one reason being that purer foods and vegetables are sold at the present time on the East Side as one of the results of the campaign of the board of health. The destitution, however, is very marked. Many of the people today, especially of the unemployed, subsist entirely on bread and herring, and one Italian druggist on Market street said that the Italians in the districts surrounding his store found it impossible to buy properly pasteurized milk for their babies. The grocers say they are compelled to give more credit, people buy things by the pennyworth, and they sell the very cheapest groceries, of which they have a much larger sale than they ever had before. An Italian minister, associated with the Church of the Sea and Land, said that the destitution among the Italians in that district is even greater than among the Hebrews.

The report says that the sales in all the groceries have greatly increased, and that the average grocery bill for a medium-sized family is \$3 per week. There are starving children, not in the sense that they get nothing to eat, but that they habitually do not get enough to eat. A Forsyth street grocer says that he has been induced to give credit to persons he knows can not pay, but he can not see them go hungry.

A number of sample accounts are given, selected at random from the books of the grocers of this district. The two-cent entries are the most numerous, and entries as high as twenty-five cents happen only on feast days. One entry by a grocer was twenty-five cents in cash given to a man to buy a piece of meat in a case where it was known that the family had no funds. For economy's sake families buy no coffee, but buy tea because they can steep it three or four times.

A grocer in Broome street, who has been in business for about a year, says that in the building over his store, three-quarters of the people are unemployed. He has on his books \$150, which he offered to sell for \$10 in cash. A grocer on Rutgers street, whose sales a month ago were \$450 a week, says that the sales now amount to \$300. Some are so poor as to be unable to purchase his cheapest goods, and buy decayed potatoes and vegetables and stale bread. Many instances are given to show that the falling off in sales is continuing, indicating that the poverty is increasing rather than diminishing.

THEY NEED A REMINDER

The defeat of Taft would bring the republican ring masters to a realistic sense that there are yet a people and a God, which they very much need to have impressed upon their understanding, and, believing this, we shall vote for Bryan.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED"

The following editorial is taken from the New York Evening Post:

If the democratic managers wish to have a little fun with the republicans they need only dig up the speeches of prominent republicans made in the last campaign. There is Senator Dick of Ohio, for instance. In 1904 he was rubbing it into Bryan in splendid style, because of prophecies of bad times that had gone wrong, and a postal card; "part of the Congressional Record," which Mr. Dick fathered, went through the country, bearing among others the following "Things to Be Remembered:"

Remember 1893-1896 and the days of industrial gloom.

Remember 1893-1896 and the thousands of capable mechanics looking in vain for work.

Remember 1893-1896 and the hundreds of thousands of laborers walking the streets from sunrise to sunset looking for the work which could not be found.

Remember 1893-1896 and the countless number of women and children waiting, faint with hunger for the bread which never came.

Remember 1893-1896 and the heartsickness, the worry, the unpaid and unpayable debts, and all the many ills that attend the man out of work.

Remember 1893-1896 and the landlord waiting at the door for rent money, which could not be provided.

Remember 1893-1896, when the factory whistle failed to blow for another day's work, another day's pay.

Remember 1893-1896 and the wives and children wanting clothes.

Remember 1893-1896 and the home comforts which were wanting.

Remember 1893-1896 and the un-American soup houses and other forms of charity necessary to relieve those who need no relief when they can get work.

Change the dates to 1907-08, and a good deal of this thundering is available for immediate democratic use.

FOR 25 CENTS

FROM NOW UNTIL ELECTION DAY THE COMMONER WILL BE SENT TO ANY ADDRESS FOR 25 CENTS.

THE FULL DINNER PAIL

The following appeared in the New York World of June 14, 1908:

According to statistics compiled by the relief department of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, the number of families in need of charitable aid now is three times greater than it was at this time last year. The books of the department show that, whereas only 1,848 families needed and were given aid on June 1 last year, 4,295 families were receiving assistance from the association on June 1 this year.

To carry on this increased relief work which has been steadily mounting up since last October, the association has already been compelled to withdraw \$25,000 from its reserve fund. But even this appropriation, in addition to current contributions aggregating \$70,944, has been found to be insufficient to continue the work throughout the summer because of the many special calls for heavy summer relief.

As a result, when the board of directors of the association meets tomorrow it will be requested to approve an additional withdrawal of \$30,000 from the reserve fund, so that the work of the relief department may not be impeded during the hot months.

Robert W. Bruere, general agent of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, said last night that dearth of employment was largely responsible for the extra burdens which the charitable associations will have to bear this summer. Continuing, he said:

"When men are out of work it means that we have to feed their families, clothe them, pay their rent, furnish medical attendance and do virtually everything else which the worker or workers in a family usually attend to. Our total cash disbursements since October 1, 1907, have amounted to \$64,855, an increase of \$26,678 over the same period last year. We estimate that it will cost about \$45,000 to carry on our relief work during the months of July, August and September this year. For the same period last year we were able to give relief to all who applied on an appropriation of \$11,582. Any outside contributions which we may receive this summer will be welcomed, for unless conditions improve we shall have to depend largely upon our reserve fund to carry on our work."

MONOPOLY

In a dispatch to his newspapers William Allen White said: "The convention would not have changed the platform which it believed to be inspired from Washington if the minority had offered the ten commandments." Perhaps the ten commandments would have been particularly objectionable in the convention of a political party that has surrendered itself into the keeping of special interests.